

NOTICES.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED
CHRISTMAS CONFECTIONERY.

Just Received.
CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS, GOCOC-
NUTS, CHOCOLATES, BURNED ALMONDS,
AND
SUNDRY SWEETS,
ROSE WATER & OTHER CRACKERS
IN GREAT VARIETY.
NEW SEASON'S
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CARDS,
CHROMOS OF SWISS AND HOME
SCENERY.
SUITABLE FOR FRAMING.
NEW ILLUSTRATED PHOTOGRAPHIC
ALBUMS.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Established A.D. 1841.
Hongkong, 13th December, 1897.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
All letters for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.
Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not
ordered for a fixed period will be continued until
cancelled.
Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be
sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.
After that hour the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

BIRTHS.
At No. 63, Singapore Road, Singapore, on the
morning of the 26th December, 1897, the wife of
MR. J. S. WATSON, of a son.
On the 3rd January, 1906, at East Point, the
wife of J. S. WATSON, of a son.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 4th, 1906.

ONE of the most important topics of the
day is that of commercial and technical
education. For years past we have been
told that the foreign workman was beating
the English workman by reason of his
superior training, and more recently the
same sermon has been preached, and even
more forcibly, with reference to commercial
assistants and clerks. It has been
embellished with a good deal of exaggeration,
no doubt, the comparison being drawn in
many cases between the best foreign
man and the worst that can be found
in England, for such is the fashion of the
day. Still making all due allowances on
this score, the alarmists have done good
service in compelling attention to a very
important subject. If England is to go on
improving her commercial position the
standard of business and technical education
will have to be raised. This has been
recognized in principle, and during the last
few years technical schools have been es-
tablished in many industrial centres, and
increasing attention has at the same time
been paid in the middle class schools to
manufacturing and trading topics to sub-
stantiated to afford a useful training
to the counting house and merchant's clerk.
The importance attached to the question, was
shown on the other day, when a conference
was held, under the auspices of the London Cham-
ber of Commerce, on commercial education,
at which there were many influential speakers.
Simultaneously with the holding of this con-
ference there was published a scheme for an
examination for a commercial certificate
drawn up by the Oxford and Cambridge
Schools Examination Board after consultation
with Sir B. Samuelson, Sir H. Roscoe,
and Mr. Myddelton, and with the Chamber
of Commerce. It would hardly be too much
to say that the launching of this scheme
marks a new era in the history of education
in Great Britain. Commercial education,
hitherto relegated to such an inferior posi-
tion, is now taken under the direct eye
of the two great seats of learning, and
it can hardly fail to benefit by the con-
nection. As the Times remarks, "the real ob-
ject of commercial education in the liberal
sense is to show men of business the mean-
ing of their daily work in its wider relations,
and to give them a genuine interest in its
scientific bearings. Such an education right-
ly given will not only make the recipient a
better man and a better citizen, but a better
man of business in the narrow sense of the
term. It will enlarge his views, and give
him facilities, and give the zest of scientific
pursuit to the everyday drudgery of the
counting-house and the desk."

The examination is intended for candidates
of 15 or 17 who are entering commercial
life. A minimum of general knowledge is
demanded of all candidates, and Arithmetic,
Algebra, English, Geography, at least one
modern language, and "another subject, liter-
ary or scientific," are compulsory, but con-
siderable latitude of choice is allowed within
these limits. Thus shorthand is optional
subject, but commercial correspondence and
proof writing are obligatory, and "great
weight will be attached to good handwriting
and spelling and to an orderly style."

A choice is given between French, German,
Spanish, and Italian, while the "literary or
scientific subject" to be taken up may be
either English History, Latin, Elementary
Political Economy, Drawing, geometrical
and mechanical, Chemistry, organic or in-
organic, Mechanics, Electricity, or Sound,
Light, and Heat. The examination in Latin
and in modern languages comprises "un-
seen" translations, while in the living
languages a fair power of conversing fluently
will be further required.

The Hongkong Public School last year
very wisely placed itself under the University
examination scheme. We would suggest
that it should now prepare its boys for the
commercial examination, since most of them
are destined for a commercial career.

The examination is a tolerably stiff one, and
it can be hoped to see many pupils suc-
cessfully, but the standard is one at which it
might be usefully aimed, even if it cannot
attain to it immediately. Arrangements
might possibly be made to have Chinese in-
cluded as one of the optional languages,
which would be of decided utility locally.
The time is approaching when there will be
a large demand for young men with a know-
ledge of Asiatic languages, and more particu-
larly of Chinese. A school for the study
of Oriental languages has recently been
founded at Berlin, and the Ecole des Lan-

gues Orientales Vives has for years past
done good service in Paris. Efforts in the
same direction have also been made in a
fragmentary way in England, and a move-
ment in favour of the centralisation of the
facilities already afforded is now in progress.
Commercial firms in China are beginning to
appreciate the advantages of having on their
staff young men with a knowledge of the
colloquial, and the demand for such will go
on increasing. Now, almost every boy
brought up in Hongkong learns to speak
Chinese after a fashion, the fashion, that is,
of the coolie class. It ought to be part of
the work of the Hongkong Public School to
bring this knowledge, which the majority of
its pupils possess, into shape, and turn the
boys out able to speak the language after the
manner of educated Chinamen.
The school is in its infancy, the staff is small,
and it would be unreasonable to look
for great results as yet. Very satisfac-
tory progress has, however, been made, and
the institution is a rising one. There is no
room for carpentering at what has already
been done, but it is not unreasonable to hope
that much more will be done in the future, that
the school will take a decidedly better
standing, and that in a few years' time it
will be able to send up candidates qualified
for the University commercial examination,
and proficient in the language of the people
with whom as commercial men they will
in after life have to maintain business
relations.

Mr. Ross was rather better yesterday, after-
noon, but not so well again in the evening.

The second performance of the season by the
Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club is performed
under the management of the 17th instant, when
Sheridan's comedy "The Rivals" will be
placed on the boards.

A Montreal telegram in the Vancouver Daily
News, dated 23rd November, says: "Henry
Boatman, manager of the Canadian Pacific steam-
ship line, leaves to superintend the construction
of the new steamers for the Company's China
and Japan route."

M. Duron's French Opera troupe, which
was here at the end of 1895, will, we learn,
play another year in the Chinese Theatre, and
will probably give their first performance on
the following Saturday.

Last evening Mr. Sanger gave another
organ recital at St. John's Cathedral. There
was a good attendance, and the performance was
highly appreciated. During the evening a solo
"Hear ye Israel" with great sweetness and clearness.

The wall calendar for 1898 issued by the
Queens Insurance Company and forwarded to the
Yacht Club by the local agents ("Messrs. Norton
& Co.") is as usual, a bold and striking one. The
title of the company, and the name of the agent,
are in a plain red shield surrounded by a
green wreath, each corner being coloured in
different quarters of the globe, three of them
being laid in the British dominions. Why the
publishers should have gone to Egypt for the
wall calendar is a puzzle, which is already
several enough.

A change in the date of departure of the
French mail steamer Shanghai is announced.
The local papers state that the steamer will
leave Shanghai in future during the north-east
monsoon on Saturday at daylight, instead of
on Monday afternoon as at present. The
new departure will be the first steamer to leave
under the new system, and her mail will be
sent accordingly on Friday, the 6th of January.
This will make no difference to the passengers,
but it will be a change, which is already
several enough.

The steamer Pakan, which left Singapore
for Bangkok, had to put back to Singapore
on the 21st inst. and the steamer after
lying to for seven hours, returned to Singapore
with one engine. The pilot boat and a party
of the crew were taken on board, and the
steamer was towed to the pier. The cause of
her delay was the engine, which was damaged
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EXTRACTS.

A MODERN DIAGENES.

A man had a quarrel with his wife which led to a breach of the peace. The woman took her revenge by refusing to speak to him for several days. The husband, who was good-natured enough when not excited, could not bear this. He went to her door, unlocked it, and entered. He found her sitting in a room, busy sewing. He went to her, and she looked up at him. He said, "What are you looking for?" She replied, "I am looking for your tongue!"

DARWIN'S THEORY ON THE ORIGIN OF CORAL ISLANDS.

Referring to his theory on this subject, Professor Huxley, the Duke of Argyll, in a letter to the editor of *Nature*, says: "The contention is that Darwin's theory on the origin of the coral islands is a case in point. I believed in it or accepted it, for many years, as others did. Professor Bonney admits that I have described it not only fairly, but as far as I was still its advocate. This is exactly what I tried to do. I now hold that it has been discovered, and has been replaced by another theory, quite as good, and more in harmony with other natural laws which are of universal operation, but have been only lately recognised. I affirm, further, that this new theory or explanation has been received with the timidity, the discouragement, the discomfiture, and the obstruction which are characteristic in such cases. But this is not the point. It is not creditable to him. But his view is not enough to disprove the truth of my contention. That Professor Huxley and Professor Bonney should be unable to make up their minds upon such evidence as has been before us for several years, is, in my opinion, a strong confirmation of the law which I am operating upon. There are some discoveries in science—some explanations of curious phenomena—which are self-evident. They shine with their own light. The moment they are suggested, with a few cardinal and certain facts to illustrate them, they are their own proof. Everything that turns up speaks in support of them. My contention is that such is the character of Mr. Murray's theory of the coral island formations in the Pacific."

A STUDY FROM THE NUDE.

A female model was the sister, and was placed with her back to the students, half leaning, half reclining, in an attitude of grace. Had arrived late, and was compelled to take the only vacant seat to the end of the amphitheatre, from which I had a view of the model's profile. The face was not very attractive, but the attitude seemed an easy one. I was therefore surprised to see tears slowly falling down the model's cheeks. I thought I ought to draw the attention of the visitor to the fact and did so. "Oh, no!" said Mr. Jones, "she can't be in pain; no, I think I know what distresses her. This no notice, do on with your work." The next night the student appeared, but the tears were not, and I thought little more about the matter. A few months after this very modest, respectable-looking girl was sent to me by a friend as a model, and I engaged her at once for a picture I had just commenced. I found the girl was the daughter of a tailor in a very small way of business, and that she was in every particular a thoroughly respectable person. It was not till after two or three sittings, and on looking and again at her profile, that it struck me that I had seen the tears on each other's down in the life school. "Surely, Miss B—, I cannot be mistaken; you sat for Mr. Jones at the Royal Academy?" She blushed, and said, "No, I did not." "You said, 'No, I did not.' Why did you do that?" "I did it," she said, "to prevent my father going to prison. He owed three pounds ten, and he couldn't have paid it by that Saturday night he was to be arrested. The academy paid me three guineas for the week and saved him. I never did in that way before, and I never will again." "I believe she never did. She is at present time in a position of life far beyond anything she could have hoped. She is a mother and a girl, mother, and no one has any idea that she is the daughter of a tailor from her father's position."—*Frith's Reminiscences.*

TURGENEV'S PECULIARITIES.

Miss Hargrove writes in the *Independent*: "Turgenev was very neat about his person, dressing in the latest thing every day, etc. Polonsky's surprise at his manner of brushing his hair led to the statement of a curious fact with regard to Turgenev's hair. 'I brush it fifty times on the right side, fifty on the left; I take this comb and pass it through one hundred times—what are you surprised at? There is still another comb in my hair.' In conversation he explained that his love of brushing his hair was inherited from his mother, who was seized with a mania for dressing everybody's hair. She combed the heads of the maids, and once, in Moscow, called a poor old invalid soldier from the street, seated him at her dressing table, combed, arranged and smoothed his hair, and then gave him money and dismissed him. In conversation of this subject, he mentioned the curious fact that he had never grown out in infancy and that his hair was covered only by the skin on the spot where there is a slight depression. 'When I was at boarding school,' he said, 'I felt a sort of oddness whenever the children teased me by pulling at my fingers, and as children never have an mercy, sometimes they pressed my temples intentionally and almost made me faint.' Turgenev was not wholly wrong on this point, for when the doctors examined him after death, they found that his skull was very thin; and possibly it was thinner still on his temples, so that he actually did yield under strong pressure, particularly in childhood."

He was as particular as he was personally neat. He always put things in order when he found them strewn about—the children's playthings, clothing, etc., like a nurse. And once, when he had forgotten to put his slippers in place, he got out of bed, lighted a candle, and only went back when everything on his writing-table was in due order. He could not write if anything was out of place.

VERY WISE ELEPHANTS.

One evening, soon after my arrival in Eastern Assam, and while the five elephants were being fed opposite the bungalow, I observed a young and lately-captured one step to a bamboo fence and quickly pull up one of the stakes. Placing it under its foot it broke off a piece with its trunk, and after lifting it to its mouth threw it away. It repeated this twice or three, and then drew another stake. Seeing that the bamboo was old and dry, I asked the reason of this, and was told to wait and see what the elephant would do.

"A large elephant leech fell to the ground, quite a few inches long and thick as a finger, and which, from its position, could not possibly have been attached to the elephant. I subsequently found that this was a common occurrence. Such leeches are used by every elephant daily. On another occasion, when travelling at a time of the year when the fleas are so tormenting to the elephant, I noticed that the one I rode had a flea on his back. The driver, at my order, scratched him, and allowed her to go to the side of the road, where, for some moments she stood alone, rummaging the smaller jungle on the back. At last she came to a cluster of young shoots well branched, and after feeling among them and selecting one raised her trunk and neatly stripped down the stem, shaking off all the lower branches and leaving a fine bunch on top. She then calmly and leisurely walked several times, and then lying hold at the lower end and broke off a beautiful fan, or switch, about five feet long, handle included. With this she kept the fleas at bay, tapping them off on each side.—*Nature.*"

JAPANESE PUNISHMENTS.

All serious crimes were formerly punished by death, the severity of the death being marked by the manner of completing the sentence. In some cases the penalty was decapitation only; exposure of the head often followed as an additional stigma. The order to execute the head upside down, which at times supplemented a sentence, proclaimed the gravity of the crime. Criminals were also subjected to a shameful punishment, known as the greatest terror, and the sentence was fulfilled with a banishment and a strictly intended to magnify the fear of the victim. The prisoner, in a state almost of nudity, was secured by strong cords to a bamboo cross placed in a perpendicular position, and was exposed for some time to the sun, and was called to complete their fearful work, and these wretches, who delighted in prolonging the suffering of their victims, were selected from the most despised class of human beings in Japan—the *Himis*—so low, indeed, that a street dog was their superior in the community. Two of these executioners, armed with long swords, and dressed in the most filthy and disgusting of rags, would cry in loud voices, and when the order was given, they would thrust into the lower part of the criminal's abdomen on both sides and parallel about upward through the body until the blade was exposed above the shoulders and the victim's arms were raised. Other cruelties were practiced, and the last remains of life were expended by the criminal in the throat. Persons guilty of murder, including parricide, were reserved for a horrid death. The prisoner, securely bound to a stake, was exposed in the public square, and was left to rot in the jaws of the lowest class of the community. The sentence was finally completed by decapitation, the prisoner's head being slowly severed from his body with a bamboo saw. The most terrible cruelty could not devise a more frightful and prolonged torture.

The most extreme of revolting cruelties were practiced on the Japanese prisoners until very recently were the various applications of the fire torture; but for the victim, some of them had the one advantage of more speedily terminating his terrible sufferings. The accused, with hands and feet secured, was suspended, held down, in a cage made of green bamboo. The cage was covered with a slowly revolving, and being exposed to the direct heat of a charcoal fire which was frequently replenished by the executioners.

Often times, happily for the wretched sufferer, the fumes of the charcoal produced suffocation. Another fire torture was to compel the prisoner to stand upon a heated grating or grid, beneath which a fire was burning. The victim, who was unable to leave the small enclosure, being quite surrounded by a strong railing. Lighted charcoal placed in the interior of a metal funnel was another description of fire torture. The tube containing the lighted charcoal was securely bound to the grasp of the prisoner, and he was forced by the attendants to walk quickly about, exposing the head and all of the tube to the fire, thereby increasing the heat and increasing his own sufferings. Another agonizing torture was produced by the application of boiling oil to the body of the victim, and it was a terrible sight to see men being thus tortured. In some cases, the victim was placed in a cage made of bamboo, and the cage was filled with water. The water was then heated, and the victim was left in the cage until he was dead.

The stone torture was usually the first cruelly practiced upon a prisoner. He was forced to prostrate himself, face downward, upon the apex of five triangular shaped blocks of hard wood, the top of his legs being exposed to the sharp edges. While he lay in this position heavy stones were placed on the victim's thighs, and others were slowly added to increase the terrible weight until he became unconscious or signified his intention to confess. The box torture was a still more atrocious contrivance. Bound hand and foot, the culprit was forced into a strong box about two feet square, having a covering made to fit the inside and capable of being lowered or raised at will. Heavy weights were placed upon it, and as these were increased in number, depressing the lid, the poor wretch within the box was slowly crushed to death.

In using the water torture it was believed that the torment of thirst would induce a prisoner to confess his guilt. After several days' subsistence on a salt diet, without rice and water, the accused was shut in a room where he would see and hear the dripping of water on all sides, but out of his reach. The cravings and sufferings became fearful under the agonizing, often approaching the bounds of insanity. Deprivation of sleep was effected by placing the criminal upon a bed of nails, or upon a small amount of water was continually flowing. Attendants were in readiness, and at the slightest indication of slumber they would rouse their victim by ringing bells, beating drums, or the application of fire to his body. The treatment rendered sleep impossible, the poor wretch's mind became disordered, and the tortures and sometimes led him to a fatal issue.

The old style of trial in Japan included only about four persons, the Judge, the secretary, the torturer and the accused. The latter was taken into the examination room securely bound, and was forced to kneel during the investigation of his case. He persisted in remaining mute or appeared to be dumb in his reply to his questions addressed to him the "investigation whip" was used suitably—an instrument capable of inflicting great punishment, made of three long strips of bamboo cane. Should he continue stubborn a much heavier whip was applied, the torturer repeating the blows until the prisoner either yielded or insisted under terrible infliction. But no fatal injuries were permitted to be inflicted during these preliminary investigations, and a Judge caused the application of torture to innocent persons, or to those of very advanced or tender years, or to pregnant females, was himself liable to severe punishment.

Such were some of the inhuman methods of torturing prisoners in Japan, practiced, certainly, within a score of years—and not a few of the death sentences decreed, excepting the most atrocious tortures, the present writer has actually witnessed.—*Manchester Courier.*

INTIMATIONS.

WINTER TIME TABLE.

THE KOWLOON FERRY.

"MORNING STAR."

Runs Daily as a Ferry Boat between PEDDAR'S WHARF and TAI-TA-TEU at the following hours—This Time Table will take effect from the 17th October, 1897.

9.00	9.00	10.15
*10.15	10.30	10.45
12.30 P.M.	11.00	12.00 Noon
1.00	12.30 P.M.	1.00 P.
2.00	1.30	2.00
3.00	2.30	3.00
4.00	3.30	4.00
4.30	4.15	4.30
5.10	4.50	5.10
5.40	5.25	5.40
6.15	6.00	6.15
6.45	6.30	6.45
	7.00	